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**FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL.**  
**FRIDAY, October 22.**  
The money situation, or rather that particular phase of the money situation having reference to the course of sterling exchange rates, formed to-day the sole governing influence upon security prices. Yesterday the factor of the day was the news of the discount rate of the Bank of England's discount rate, but inasmuch as this did not provoke a great amount of liquidation, or at least not as much as might naturally have been supposed, speculators for the fall in the stock market made haste before the close of business to buy in their contracts for the decline, with the result that the security market closed as a rule at not advances. Nevertheless the true character of the rise that took place yesterday was apparent, and when to-day very shortly after the opening of business a rise in the price of demand sterling in this market occurred that brought sterling close to the point at which gold could theoretically be exported a fright rather more serious than that of yesterday took possession of speculators and the market declined heavily. Comparing with the first prices made in the stock market on Thursday to-day's recessions were not great; but declines measured from prices recorded at the close of business last night were of course relatively large. There were few of the active stocks that did not fall 1/2 points, and as the selling continued with but feeble rallies throughout the day and the market closed pretty nearly at the lowest pitch net losses of more than two points in the leaders of the market were generally shown. In the afternoon sterling exchange receded somewhat from its high price of the morning, but the unfavorable side of this development was that it represented, according to some opinions, a possible selling of exchange against gold exports. In the next week's fast steaming for which arrangements were making. Rumors of such engagements were common enough to-day, but they could not be traced. A fair amount of money was, however, sent to Canada, and a further engagement of gold for export to Brazil in addition to that taken yesterday also occurred.

It is a matter reasonably open to discussion whether as much importance from a stock market point of view should really be attached to gold exports from financial centres as is in fact usually given to them. Always assuming that gold exports do not so reduce the supply of money at the centre in question to such limits as to lead to money stringency, shipments of coin out of a country are of little more significance than shipments of money from a financial capital to interior cities such as, for instance, to St. Louis or Chicago from New York. Developing circumstances in our country may indicate that we can after all spare quite an amount of gold to England at the present time without causing any particular derangement of our own affairs. Experience has shown that attempts to judge the future of the stock market from changing conditions day by day in the sterling exchange market are difficult and usually vain experiments, chiefly because the price of sterling in a large market like that of this city is governed by so many shifting influences that it is impossible to accurately gauge them all. If, as speculators for the fall to-day loudly declared was probable, an advance should take place next week in the discount rate of the Bank of Germany and the Bank of France it would not serve to mitigate the perplexities of the situation, but on the other hand if sterling in both Paris and Germany continues to move in favor of London as it is doing it will counterbalance in considerable degree the strength of sterling here. Meanwhile shipments of our cotton are going on in large volume at high prices and are daily making exchange in large sums. The course of money rates here to-day, despite the stimulus applied by the artificially high rates for funds introduced in London, went a good way to show that to-morrow's local bank statement will be favorable rather than otherwise. At no time during the day did money lend above 4 1/2 per cent., and it was stated on the floor of the Stock Exchange that in excess of \$25,000,000 was offered at that figure. The usual estimates as gathered and published of the cash transactions of the banks indicated that the banks had made a gain in cash for the week of somewhere between \$50,000 and \$300,000. It would not be at all surprising if the actual gain should be found to be somewhat in excess of this. On the face of things it would seem natural that bank loans had this week increased considerably on account of the presumed bank transfer here of loans from Europe. It may turn out, however, that the increase in loans as shown by the event will be much smaller than is commonly thought, the reason therefor being that the extension of credit by interior institutions and private corporations has "taken up the slack" caused by the London and Paris liquidation. It may be, therefore, that a fair increase will be shown in to-morrow's bank surplus reserve. The difficulty on this point is, however, that anything resembling low rates for money at the present will obviously arrest a movement of gold out of the country.

and usually vain experiments, chiefly because the price of sterling in a large market like that of this city is governed by many things, among which it is not possible to account for the change that it makes. If, as speculators for the fall to-day loudly declared was probable, an advance should take place next week in the discount rate of the Bank of Germany and the Bank of France it would not serve to mitigate the perplexities of the situation, but on the other hand if sterling in both Paris and Germany continues to move in favor of London as it is doing it will counterbalance in considerable degree the strength of sterling here. Meanwhile shipments of our cotton are going on in large volume at high prices and are daily making exchange in large sums. The course of money rates here to-day, despite the stimulus applied by the artificially high rates for cotton induced in London, went a good way to show that to-morrow's local bank statement will be favorable rather than otherwise. At no time during the day did money lend above 4½ per cent., and it was stated on the floor of the Stock Exchange that in excess of \$25,000,000 was offered at that figure. The usual estimates as gathered and published of the cash transactions of the banks indicated that the banks had made a gain in cash for the week of somewhere between \$500,000 and \$3,000,000. It would not be at all surprising if the actual gain should be found to be somewhat at the excess of this. On the face of things it would seem natural that bank loans had this week increased considerably on account of the presumed transfer here of loans from Europe. It may turn out, however, that the increase in loans as shown by the event will be much smaller than is commonly thought, the reason therefor being that the extension of credit by interior institutions and private corporations has "taken up the slack" caused by the London and Paris liquidation. It may be, therefore, that a fair increase will be shown in to-morrow's bank surplus reserve. The difficulty is, however, that anything resembling loans for money at the present will obviously assist a movement of gold out of the country.